

State Representative

Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle)

Working for the 11th Legislative District



There ought to be a law... Bob's 11th District Questionnaire

January 2008

Dear Friends:

I hope you had a great holiday season and are energized to work with me to build a better future. The short 2008 Legislative session means we just have 60 days to get a lot of work done for the people of Washington State. Your timely input on the issues we'll be discussing will be very helpful in guiding my decisions.

Many of you know I have set up an "Intro Sheet" e-mail list where I send you information each day of session on each bill being introduced. This provides you with the basic information you need to give me input on any of them. Due to RCW 42.52.185, and some decisions of the Legislative Ethics Board, all legislators are prohibited from sending out daily e-mail updates during the session of even numbered years, which I disagree with. You can still get the details on any bill by going to this link <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> and entering the bill number. I can reply to any message you send me about these bills, if you have any questions. If you'd like to sign up to be on my Intro Sheet list in the future, just send me a message at hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov and put "Please add me to your Intro Sheet List" in the subject line.

This past year serving as your representative in Olympia has been an amazing experience, once again. I am proud of the bills I've passed <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/House/Hasegawa/SponsoredBills.htm>, the Capital Budget money we've brought back to serve the 11th District in the form of schools, workforce training facilities, and community enhancement projects, and my overall voting record for the working families and small businesses of our state <http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/Legislature/MemberRollCalls/2007/Hasegawa.pdf>. I am excited to get back to the State Capitol to continue working for you.

As your representative, I want to know what issues matter to you most. Please share your opinions with me by filling out and returning the attached questionnaire. Together, we can build a better future.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Hasegawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Hasegawa".



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Standing House Committees:

- Finance, Vice Chair
- Capital Budget
- Higher Education

Joint Legislative Committee:

- Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations

National Conference of State Legislatures:

- Committees on Communications; Financial Services and Interstate Commerce

Be sure to visit my website at www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hasegawa where you'll find current information on issues that matter to our community.



Going paperless

Would you rather receive future newsletters in electronic form? If you'd like to save on postage and paper, let me know via e-mail (hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov) so I can add you to our e-newsletter list and remove you from the snail mail records.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Due to space restrictions, this questionnaire is not exhaustive, so please feel free to add additional comments on any other issue that you're concerned about. When you're done, refold the newsletter so my name and return address are on the front. Then please stamp and mail it back to me as soon as you can. If you need additional room for your answers or comments, feel free to write them on a separate sheet or e-mail me at: hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov

Improving education:



Education is the great equalizer! We need the best schools, the best teachers and the best students in order to keep our economy strong, should our state...

1. Prioritize early learning? Learning begins at birth and many patterns are developed at very early ages, which affects how students do later in life.

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

2. Bolster work with at-risk families of young children, such as services emphasizing more in-home visits and parent-participation to help the family support the student's ability to learn?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

3. Stop using the WASL as the sole graduation requirement? The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL test) punishes students for the failures of the education system. It does not improve the system to better prepare students for this test.

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

4. Provide more encouragement for prospective teachers to enter this field, especially in high-demand fields such as science and technology?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

5. Help more non-traditional students, such as working parents or displaced workers, get college degrees in new high-demand fields?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

Do you have other ideas to improve Washington's education system?

We need better access to quality health care:



In order for students to learn, their primary needs must be met. Hungry children and sick children can't learn. Parents who must work multiple jobs, who are sick or who live in fear of a medical bill sinking the family budget have difficulty finding time to nurture their child's academic capacity.

In recent years we've made excellent progress in this field, but too many families still struggle to get health care. Ideally, everyone should have access to a doctor, especially children, disabled citizens and seniors, but how do we get there?

1. Should our state bolster incentives encouraging more employers to offer health coverage for their workers?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

2. Should our state use its massive purchasing power to create a healthcare program that provides coverage for everyone? This would free up the cost burden on good employers that's created by employers that don't pay their fair share.

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

3. Do you feel that as long as "maximizing profit" is the goal, we'll never be able to make sure everyone has quality health-care? Should the state create a system that covers everyone and uses revenue to provide coverage instead of profits?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

Please share your ideas on the best ways to make quality health care available to all Washingtonians.

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Stronger economy:

Washington's economy continues growing at a faster rate than the national economy. In the past year our state added 90,000 jobs and we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in three decades. But, in talking with folks on the street the feeling is that the economy is leaving them behind. How can we insure that the proverbial rising economic tide lifts all boats?



1. Should our state give closer scrutiny to corporate tax breaks and find new ways to promote family-owned companies and other small businesses that provide 85% of all jobs in our state?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

2. Minority-owned businesses only get about 1% of the state's contracts. In order to bring fairness into the state's contracting system, should we recognize this inequality and take steps to fix it?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

3. Should our state increase support for the research and development sector?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

What other ideas do you have to ensure our economy keeps growing?

We need serious tax reforms:



According to the Economic Opportunity Institute, Washington State has the most regressive tax system in the United States, primarily because it is based on the sales tax. People in the lowest income bracket of the state's population pay 18% of their income in state and local taxes, the middle class pays 11%, while the richest one percent of the population pays just 3%. Furthermore, our B&O tax forces businesses to pay tax whether or not they actually have any income, which tends to hurt small businesses and start-ups, and lets businesses with large incomes off the hook.

1. Should our state look for solutions to create a less regressive, fairer system?

☐ Yes, because _____

☐ No, because _____

What do you think is the best way to go about reforming our regressive tax system?



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Protecting the United States Constitution:



According to article VI of the U.S. Constitution, "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land;..." This means that treaties like the Geneva Conventions that protect civilians and prisoners of war and Nuremburg Accords that prohibit wars of aggression are of the same legal status as our Constitution itself.

The current administration has violated the Nuremburg Accords, the Geneva Conventions, Article 1 Sec. 9 (unlawful detention), and the Fourth Amendment to our Constitution (protects us against illegal wiretaps).

As your Representative, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, so last legislative session I testified in support of a Joint Memorial requesting Congress to initiate articles of impeachment against Pres. Bush and VP Cheney for their violations of our Constitution. As a country based on the rule of law, we lose public trust if we allow clear violations with impunity and without consequences.

- 1.** Should our state move to uphold our US Constitution and pass the Joint Memorial to Congress calling for initiation of the impeachment process for Cheney and Bush?
- ☐ Yes, because _____
- ☐ No, because _____

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